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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,466	03/20/2001	Masanobu Kanazawa	122.1445	7961

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EXAMINER

GODDARD, BRIAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SR

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,466

Applicant(s)

KANAZAWA, MASANOBU

Examiner

Brian Goddard

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment A, filed 24 September 2003.
2. Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 13 are independent claims. In Amendment A, claims 8-13 were added, and claims 1-7 were amended. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785 to Klug et al.

Referring to claim 1, Klug discloses a membership management method in a membership management system as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management method [Figs. 2-8] in a membership management system [Fig. 1] comprising:

at least one user terminal [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104];

a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116]; and

a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein when a user makes an application [Steps 404-408] for a registration of membership information [User Registration Information] to one of the service provision sites [See Step 404] by using said user terminal, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers [Steps 432-436] at least a part of the membership information into the database [148] held by the one of the service provision sites [See column 5, lines 7-12], and when the membership information is not registered [Fig. 4] in a database [144] held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center registers [Step 428 (See Figs. 2-3)] the membership information into [Step 236] the database [144] held by the integrated membership management center" as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, Klug discloses a membership management system as claimed. Again, see Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management system [Figure 1] comprising: at least one user terminal [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104]; a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116]; and a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein each service provision site comprises:

membership registration guidance display means [registration fill-out forms] for requesting a user to register membership information [See Steps 408-428];

means for guiding the user to obtain from the at least one user terminal [the user submits the registration information] the membership information that has been input from the user terminal based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display means [See Steps 216-220 and 432];

means for requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information [See Step 424];

means for obtaining [See Step 800] from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration [See Figs. 4-6 & 8]; and

means for posting to the at least one user terminal a user ID and a password, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center [See Fig. 2B (Steps 240-256)]” as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, “wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

means for searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information [See Step 800];

means for preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search [See Steps 236-256];

means for adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search [See Steps 432-440]; and

means for posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site [See Step 432]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the membership registration guidance display means [See the discussion regarding claim 2 above] requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center [See Figs. 2-3] even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site [See Figs. 4-8]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 5, Klug discloses an integrated membership management center as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100] that is connected to a plurality of service

provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116] and to at least one user terminal [WWW Client Node 108] via a network [WWW 104], the integrated membership management center comprising:

searching means [See step 800] searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from a user terminal [See claim 3]; and

a database [144] for registering the new membership information [User Registration Information] when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database [See Fig. 8 and Steps 424-432]" as claimed.

Claim 6 is rejected on the same basis as claim 3 above, in light of the basis for claim 5. See the discussions regarding claims 3 and 5 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 7 is rejected on the same basis as claim 4. See the discussions regarding claims 2 and 4 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 8-13 are rejected on the same basis as claims 2-7 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 2-7 above for the details of this disclosure.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 24 September 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Referring to applicant's remarks on pages 8-9 regarding the section 102 rejection of independent claims 1, 5 and 11: Applicant argued that Klug does not teach or suggest "...the one of the service provision sites receiving the application **registers at least a part of the membership information into the database held by the one of the service provision sites**" (emphasis added) as claimed.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons: Applicant's argument is based on Klug's teaching that when a user ID is already stored in the third party web site database 148 (YES branch from step 412), the user ID is not stored in the register database. (Response, Page 8) However, Klug's teaching to this effect, that when a user ID is already stored in the third party web site database, means that the user is already registered with that particular third party web site, and thus the user is not attempting to register with the third party web site (at least in the example of Figure 4). Applicant's claim states, "**when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information to one of the service provision sites**...the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers..." (emphasis added) Thus, applicant's argument does not take into consideration the full scope of the claim limitation.

Specifically, Klug teaches this limitation exactly as claimed: "when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information to one of the service provision sites [NO branch from step 412 (the user wishes to register with the third party web site because he/she is not already so registered)] by using said user terminal, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers [Steps 432-436] at least a part of the membership information into the database [148] held by the one of the service provision sites [See column 5, lines 7-12]...." Therefore, contrary to applicant's argument, Klug does teach this and all limitations of the independent claims.

Furthermore, the examiner disagrees with applicant's statement that, "in Klug, when the user ID is already stored in the third party web site database 148, the user ID is not stored in the register database, and therefore, each user cannot use the membership information common to all service provision sites." (Response, Page 8) Specifically, Figures 9-11 of Klug show that the user has an opportunity to register, or change registration information, at a third party web site using the registrar information so that each user can in fact use the membership information common to all service provision sites, even if the user ID is already stored in the third party web site.

Referring to applicant's remarks on pages 9-10 regarding the section 102 rejection of independent claims 2, 7, 8 and 13: Applicant argued that Klug does not teach "means for posting to the at least one user terminal a user ID and a password, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center" as claimed.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons: As stated in the first Office action and repeated above, Klug teaches this limitation in Steps 240-256 of Fig. 2B (and the corresponding portion of the specification). In these steps, a user is registering with the registrar site 100 wherein a user ID and password are supplied and authenticated by the registrar [integrated membership management center]. Applicant's argument is based on Klug's teaching of step 504 of Fig. 5, which was not cited by the examiner in conjunction with this claim limitation.

Klug's process of Fig. 5 is invoked by Step 436 in the process of Fig. 4. This occurs **after** the user has registered with the registrar web site and been authenticated by user ID and password (See step 428). In Fig. 5, the third party web site at which the user wishes to register using the registrar (100) is attempting to obtain the user's registration information from the registrar, and therefore has to authenticate itself to prove to the registrar site that it has permission to access the user's registration information stored therein. This feature (Steps 504-508) protects the user from third party web sites attempting to steal their personal information from the registrar site without the user's authorization (the third party web site must have the user ID and password in order to obtain the user's personal information). Klug's teaching of Fig. 5 does not correspond to this particular claim limitation, and was never cited as such. The examiner maintains that Klug does teach this limitation as shown above by the cited steps of Fig. 2.

Finally, applicant's assertion that, "in Klug...the issued ID or password is not always common to all the service provision sites" is completely unfounded. Klug's Abstract, Background of the Invention section, and Summary of the Invention section clearly show that a major purpose of the invention is to provide a user with a common user ID and password for all the service provision sites. Refer specifically to column 2, lines 2-19 for Klug's explicit disclosure as such.

5. Applicant's arguments, see page 10, filed 24 September 2003, with respect to the section 102 rejection of independent claim 5 (as amended) over Hunt (US 6,496,855) have been fully considered and are persuasive. This rejection of claim 5 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 703-305-7821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

bdg



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